

Retired 29 May 1975

Biography of

REAR ADMIRAL HARRY P. MAHIN, MC, USN

Harry Paul Mahin was born in Canova, S. D., on 14 May 1916, son of Dr. F. M. Mahin and Mrs. (Margaret Tangeman) Mahin, both now deceased. He graduated from Ainsworth (Iowa) High School; attended the University of Wichita (Kansas) and received the degree of Bachelor of Science "in absentia" from the University of Iowa in 1973; and earned the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the University of Louisville (Kentucky) in 1942. Thereafter, he served his internship at St. Joseph Infirmary in Louisville. While attending the University of Louisville, he was appointed Ensign in the Medical Corps of the U. S. Naval Reserve on March 10, 1942 and upon graduation was commissioned Lieutenant (junior grade), to date from May 26, 1942. He subsequently progressed in rank to that of Rear Admiral, to date from August 1, 1969, having transferred from the Naval Reserve to the U. S. Navy on December 28, 1950.

Ordered into active naval service, he interned at the Naval Hospital, Great Lakes, Illinois, from April to July 1942 and the next month joined the USS CELENO (AK-76). While on board that cargo ship, he participated in the consolidation of the Solomons, the Admiralty Island landings and the assault and occupation of Okinawa Gunto. Detached from the CELENO in December 1945, he reported in January 1946 as Assistant Medical Officer at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois. He remained there until April 1946, when he was released from active duty.

During the period of his inactive service, he had training in pathology and surgery at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Louisville, Kentucky.

Returning to active duty in January 1951, he reported as Ward Medical Officer at the Naval Hospital, Oakland, California, and in October 1951 became the Chief of Surgery at the Naval Hospital, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He was General Surgeon at the Naval Hospital, Great Lakes, Illinois, from August 1953 to August 1955, after which he was a student in surgery at the Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia.

He was Head of General Surgery at the Naval Hospital, St. Albans, New York, from June 1956 to August 1958, when he transferred to the Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, to serve as Head of Dependents Surgery until July 1959, then as Assistant Chief of Surgery, and from February 1961 as Chief of Surgery. In August 1965 he reported as Executive Officer of the Naval Hospital, San Diego, California, and in May 1967 became Senior Medical Officer at the Station Hospital and Head of the Medical Department at the Naval Support Activity, Danang, Republic of Vietnam.

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct...from May 1967 to March 1968..." he was awarded the Legion of Merit. He is also entitled to the Ribbon for, and a facsimile of, the Navy Unit Commendation awarded the Naval Support Activity, Danang. Additionally, Admiral Mahin has the American Campaign Medal; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Navy Occupation Service Medal, Asia clasp; National Defense Service Medal with bronze star; and the Vietnam Service Medal. He also has the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device.

In June 1968, he became the Commanding Officer of the Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the District Medical Officer of the Fourth Naval District, headquartered in Philadelphia and in August 1969 assumed command of the Naval Hospital, Oakland, California. He was ordered detached in June 1972 for duty as Inspector General, Medical, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. He assumed command of the Naval Regional Medical Center, Portsmouth, Virginia on 24 May 1974.

His official home address is 925 North Illinois Street, Arlington Heights, Illinois. He is married to the former Carrie B. Gaddis of Ware Shoals, South Carolina, and they have two sons, Lieutenant Patrick Lee Mahin, MSC, USN, and Michael Paul Mahin.

Dr. Mahin is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery and a Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery.